LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

Woodberry Down Health Centre

STOKE NEWINGTON

DESCRIPTIVE BROCHURE

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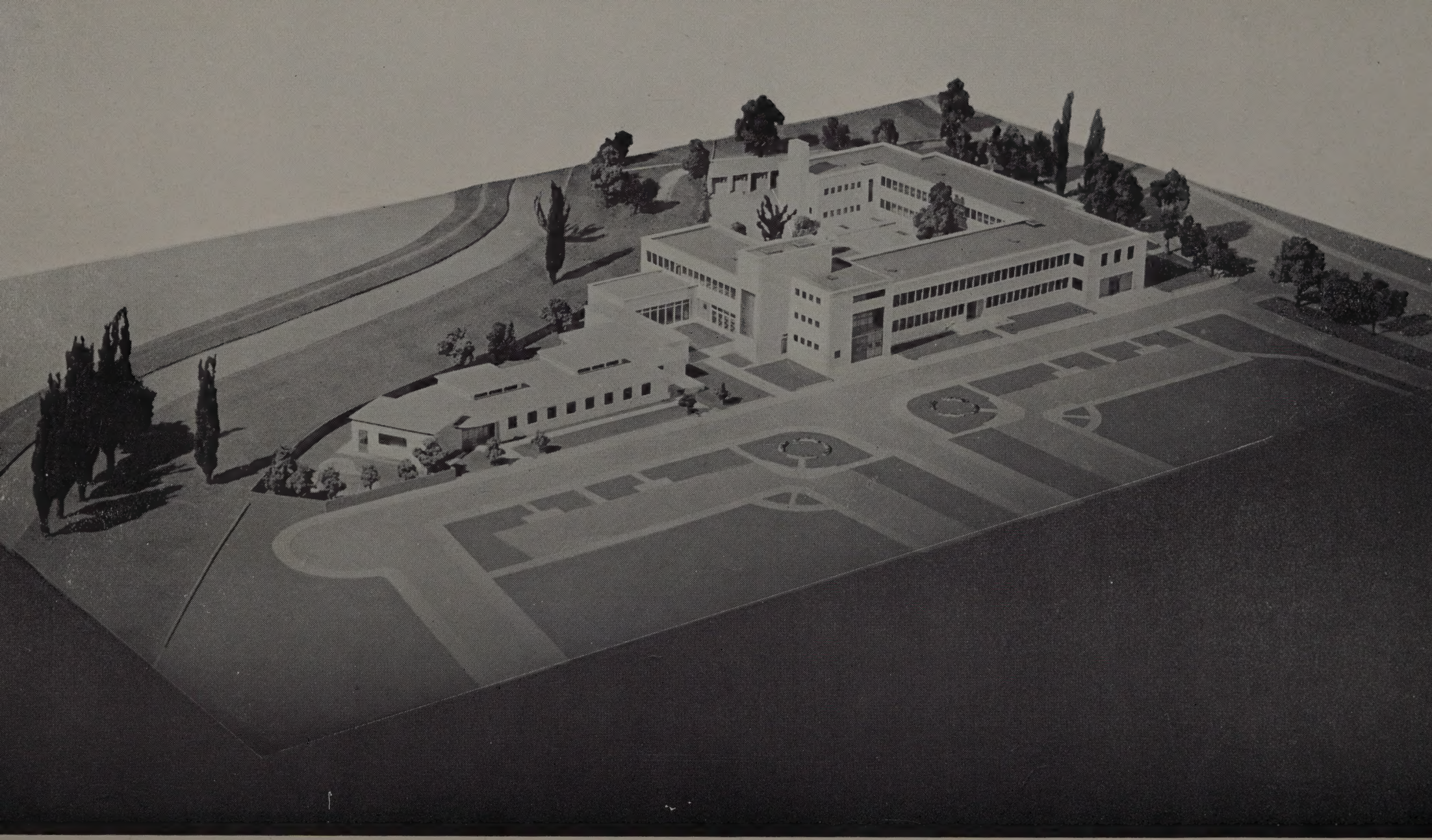

MODEL OF THE HEALTH CENTRE AND ITS SETTING

WOODBERRY DOWN HEALTH CENTRE

THE Council decided in May, 1948, to build a health centre on the Woodberry Down Housing Estate which is being developed in the borough of Stoke Newington. The plans for the centre were prepared by the Council's architectural staff under the direction of Mr. Robert H. Matthew, A.R.I.B.A., and were the first plans of a health centre to be approved by the Minister of Health. When building work began in March, 1949, the Minister himself turned the first sod.

The site of the centre, about one and a half acres in extent, including one-third of an acre for a day nursery, lies in the south-west corner of the housing estate. It has a frontage on Green Lanes and a view over the New River, the reservoir, and an open space.

AREA TO BE SERVED. The County of London has been divided into 162 health service areas, each of about 20,000 persons, and it is intended that each area shall have a comprehensive health centre. The boundaries of the area for Woodberry Down are :

In the North—The County Boundary
„ „ East —Bethune Road, The Reservoirs, Green Lanes
„ „ South—The Borough of Stoke Newington boundary to Seven Sisters' Road
„ „ West —The County Boundary

This area comprises the Lordship North Ward and the Brownswood Division.

POPULATIONS. The exact present population is not known but it has been estimated as:

Lordship North Ward (Including some completed flats on Woodberry Down estate)	1,500
Brownswood Division	8,500
Total ...	10,000

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Approximately half the area, and the greater part of Lordship North Ward, is covered by the Woodberry Down Housing Estate, which when completed will increase the population of Lordship North Ward to some 7,500. It can be assumed that the population of the Brownswood districts of South Hornsey Ward will remain much as it is for many years.

The theoretical ultimate planned population for the two ward divisions, which correspond closely to two "neighbourhood units," is calculated on the basis of the prescribed density permitted under Town Planning proposals, to be :

One neighbourhood unit (Lordship North Ward) east of Green Lanes	7,500
One neighbourhood unit (Brownswood Division of South Hornsey Ward) west of Green Lanes ...	10,200
Small scattered groups outside neighbourhood units	1,000
Total ...	18,700

People who live outside the health service area will not be precluded from attending the health centre. Until health centres are available in adjoining areas the health service area will not be limited by the boundaries described above, and in the early stages of the scheme the Woodberry Down Health Centre can serve the whole of northern Stoke Newington as far south as Stoke Newington Church Street.

Woodberry Down Estate will provide 1,765 dwellings, mainly in blocks of flats, accommodating some 6,500 persons.

In addition to the proposed health centre the following amenities will be provided on the estate :

A junior school
An infants' school
A senior school
A community centre
A library
Shopping centre
Old people's homes

The estate is still under construction but before the health centre can be brought into use some 50 per cent. of the estate will be completed and occupied. The health centre will also serve the built-up area to the west of Green Lanes.

ESTIMATED POTENTIAL PATIENTS AT VARIOUS PHASES

	Children 0 to 4	Children 5 to 14	Adults	Total
1. Mid 1950 on completion of health centre. Brownswood Division plus Lordship North and South and allowing for 50% completion of Woodberry Down Estate.	1,100*	1,700*	11-12,200	14-15,000
2. On completion of Woodberry Down Estate. Centre still serving Lordship South Ward as well as health service area.	1,600†	3,000†	12-13,400	17-18,000
3. Ultimate—health centre serving only health service area, 2 other centres having been provided in the borough.	1,700†	3,200†	13-14,100	18-19,000

* Based on average age distribution for London population in 1946, i.e., 0 to 4—7.3%; 5 to 14—11.4%. These age groups have risen subsequently.

† Assuming birth rate of 18.0.

Until (3) operates the centre may well draw patients from up to a mile away and the number of potential patients may prove to be the maximum the centre can serve, 24,000 persons.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDINGS

The plan of the building in its present form is the result of a great deal of discussion and consultation. There have been numerous discussions between the medical and architectural departments of the Council, the London Executive Council, the London Local Medical Committee and the London Local Dental Committee. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education have also been consulted and have had an opportunity of examining the plans in detail.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS' UNIT will be situated on the main frontage of the centre, facing Green

Lanes, and with one main and three subsidiary entrances. Parking facilities and a lock-up garage for each doctor will be provided.

The central entrance will lead to a small waiting hall with record office and enquiry counter, nurses' room, and lavatory accommodation for both sexes. From the waiting hall corridors will lead off to six suites of rooms for medical practitioners. Each suite will have a waiting room, consulting room, examination room and dressing cubicle and exit lobby.

From the southern hall access is planned to a small isolation room with an exit for easy removal of patients by ambulance. On the first floor there will be a bedroom, bathroom and lavatory for the doctor on night duty, and a common room with small service kitchen for general use by medical staff. On the same floor, and easily accessible from ground floor suites will be :

A small drug store,
A doctor's clinical side room,
An eye room with dark room, store and orthoptic room opening from it,
A duty room,
A store room.

The eye room will also be used by other visiting specialists. The centre of the first floor in this part of the building will have a waiting hall with a record office and an enquiry counter. From this hall, the north corridor will lead to two dental surgeries, facing east, with a recovery room between and a dental workshop.

A minor-operations room with dressings room, sterilizing room and recovery room will also be situated in this part of the building.

The School Health Unit, the Child Welfare Unit and the Ante-Natal Unit will be approached by entrances from the quiet side road.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH UNIT will have a waiting hall, a room for dealing with minor ailments, a doctor's consulting room, a nurse's room and record office—all located on the ground floor. Immediately above (on the first floor) will be two dental surgeries (one of which will be used for Maternity and Child Welfare patients) facing north, with recovery room and also an eye room with dark room, store and orthoptic room.

THE CHILD WELFARE UNIT with its separate entrance, waiting space, toddlers' playground and space for 20 prams, will have a

toddlers' room, milk room and store. A corridor will lead to a lecture hall with platform, and to an adjoining demonstration kitchen (from which light refreshments can be served). Off the hall is planned a suite of rooms comprising an undressing space, with lavatory and an isolation room adjoining an exit, an interview room for health visitors, with test feed room attached, a weighing room and waiting space for patients to be seen in the doctor's consulting room.

THE ANTE-NATAL UNIT will share the waiting space with the Child Welfare Unit. Interviewing rooms for health visitors and midwives, an advisory room with undressing cubicles and urine-testing accommodation, and a doctor's consulting room will be provided.

The plan of the first floor above includes facilities to be shared by all units. These will consist of an ultra-violet light room with undressing cubicles and a treatment room attached, and an X-ray room with facilities for dental work.

THE REMEDIAL EXERCISE AND CHILD GUIDANCE UNITS will be approached by a corridor from the two waiting halls in the east wing on the first floor. These will consist of a playroom and rooms for a psychiatrist, a psychiatric social worker, and an educational psychologist. An office and a room for remedial exercises, with an undressing room, will be provided.

GENERALLY. Staff rooms and refreshment rooms will be provided, together with sanitary accommodation for all units. There will be a caretaker's flat on the second floor.

ENGINEERING SERVICES. Heating will be effected by a centralized forced circulation low pressure hot water system, working at low temperature in conformity with modern design. The installation has been designed with wall panel radiators throughout the first floor presenting a flush surface with no lodgment for dirt or dust. Elsewhere, modern hospital type radiators will be fixed. The water is to be heated in two sectional boilers and the temperature variostatically controlled so that as the outside temperature rises or falls the temperature of the circulating water is reduced or increased to produce an equable temperature in the various rooms and effect economy in fuel consumption.

The hot water supply will be obtained from two hot water boilers and a large storage cylinder and circulated to all draw-off taps by a motor-driven centrifugal pump. The temperature of the water will be controlled thermostatically to circulate at a temperature of from 130° to 140° Fahrenheit.

Electrically heated sterilizing equipment will be installed where required.

Fluorescent lighting will be adopted generally for all working rooms.

A complete telephone system with internal inter-communication and G.P.O. lines will be provided and also a call bell and indicator system between the medical practitioners' consulting and waiting rooms.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS which have influenced the planning of the centre include :

(*a*) One large common room is planned to ensure that the public health medical staff and the general practitioners meet frequently and regard themselves as a team of doctors serving the inhabitants of the area.

(*b*) Although the question whether X-ray examinations should be carried out at health centres has not been decided it was thought wise to provide space for an X-ray plant in case, in future, it is decided that such a provision is desirable.

It is thought that better and more economical use can be made of dental X-ray apparatus if one set of equipment is supplied and all X-ray examinations centralized.

(*c*) The original plans provided for two examination rooms for each of the general practitioner suites, but the waiting rooms were thought to be too small and it was decided to enlarge them by including the space previously taken up by one of the examination rooms.

(*d*) The question of the inclusion of a pharmacy was discussed with the London Executive Council and the Ministry of Health. Although the Ministry favoured its inclusion in the first instance, the Executive Council and the London County Council were in agreement that it should not be included for the following reasons :

(i) There is an adequate number of chemists' shops in the area and another might open in the shopping centre on the Woodberry Down Estate.

(ii) Unless a considerable amount of space is allocated to the pharmacy, including a waiting space, serving counters and dispensary, and several dispensers employed, congestion and waiting, similar to that in a hospital out-patients' dispensary, may result. This will be obviated, if patients are dispersed to the chemists' shops for the dispensing of medicines ordered by the doctors in the health centre.

(*e*) The Local Dental Committee was of opinion that two surgeries for 18,000 to 20,000 population were insufficient but this health centre is not intended to replace all the dental surgeries in the area (it is understood that there are 63 dental surgeries within a two-mile radius of the centre).

At the request of the Local Dental Committee two rooms additional to the one originally planned are allocated for dental workshops.

(*f*) The Remedial Exercise and Child Guidance Units are included at the request of the Ministry of Education. The Remedial Exercise Unit, whilst primarily for schoolchildren, will perhaps be useful for other groups also.

STAFF. Except for the general practitioners and dentists working in the general practitioner unit of the centre, who will be engaged by the Executive Council, the London County Council will have to staff the centre to the satisfaction of the Minister of Health.

No indication has been received from the Ministry as to the staffing standards they have in mind and the Council will submit proposals for discussion with the Ministry. A statement giving a provisional indication of the probable grades and numbers required is appended.

ADMINISTRATION. The administration of the centre, i.e., the maintenance of the building, the provision of supplies, payment of wages, etc., will be the responsibility of the Divisional Health Committee. The internal organization of the general practitioner and dental services will be carried out on the advice of a professional

committee of the doctors and dentists. This committee, which will include the Council's Divisional Medical Officer, will make recommendations, when necessary, to the Divisional Health Committee and will take part in the selection of ancillary staff to be employed at the centre.

CAPACITY OF THE CENTRE. The maximum population which this centre will be able to serve completely is fixed by the number of general practitioner suites. While a general practitioner is permitted a panel of 4,000 persons the centre on the general practitioners' side will be able to serve a maximum population of 24,000.

The centre is planned, however, on the hypothesis that each general practitioner will have some 2,500 patients and that some attendances at private surgeries will continue. The accommodation provided allows a greater number to be dealt with if necessary.

In the public health sections of the building it is estimated that with a birth rate of 18 per 1,000, and assuming 100 per cent. user for maternity and child welfare and 75 per cent. user for school health, a population of about 25,000 could be served, as follow :

Clinics	No. of sessions per week	Average attendances per session	Total attendances per week
Ante-natal and midwives	7	30	210
Post-natal	3	15	45
Infant welfare	7	50	350
Immunization	2	—	—
Breast feeding	1	—	—
School health (minor ailments and special sessions)	10	50	500
Child guidance	10	—	5 new cases per week plus follow up of 40 old cases.
Dental—			
(i) M. and C.W. ...	11	9	99
(ii) Schoolchildren ...	11	10	110

L.C.C. HEALTH CENTRE WOODBERRY DOWN

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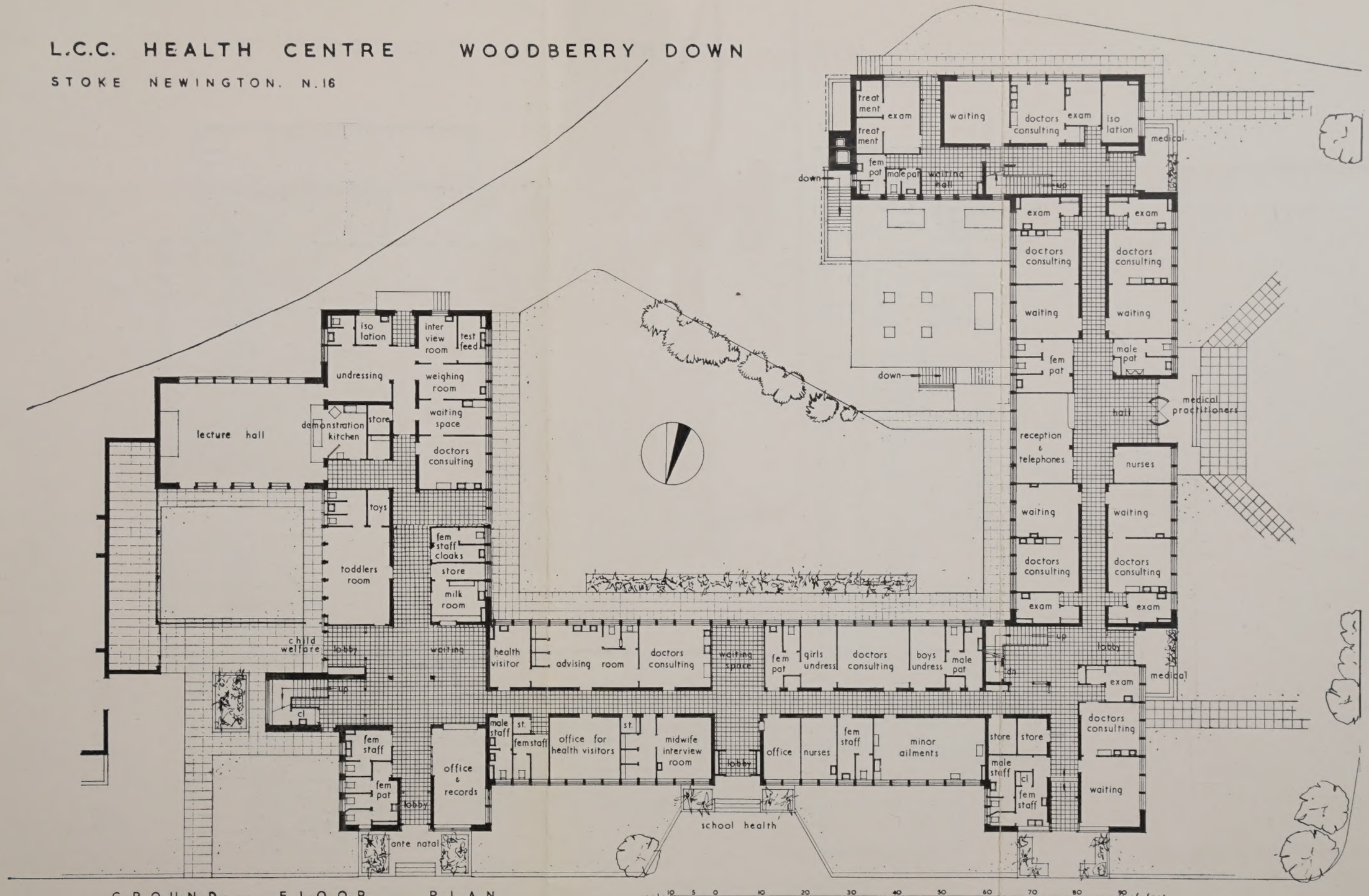

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

scale 10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 of feet

Rowe H. Matthews

L.C.C. HEALTH CENTRE WOODBERRY DOWN

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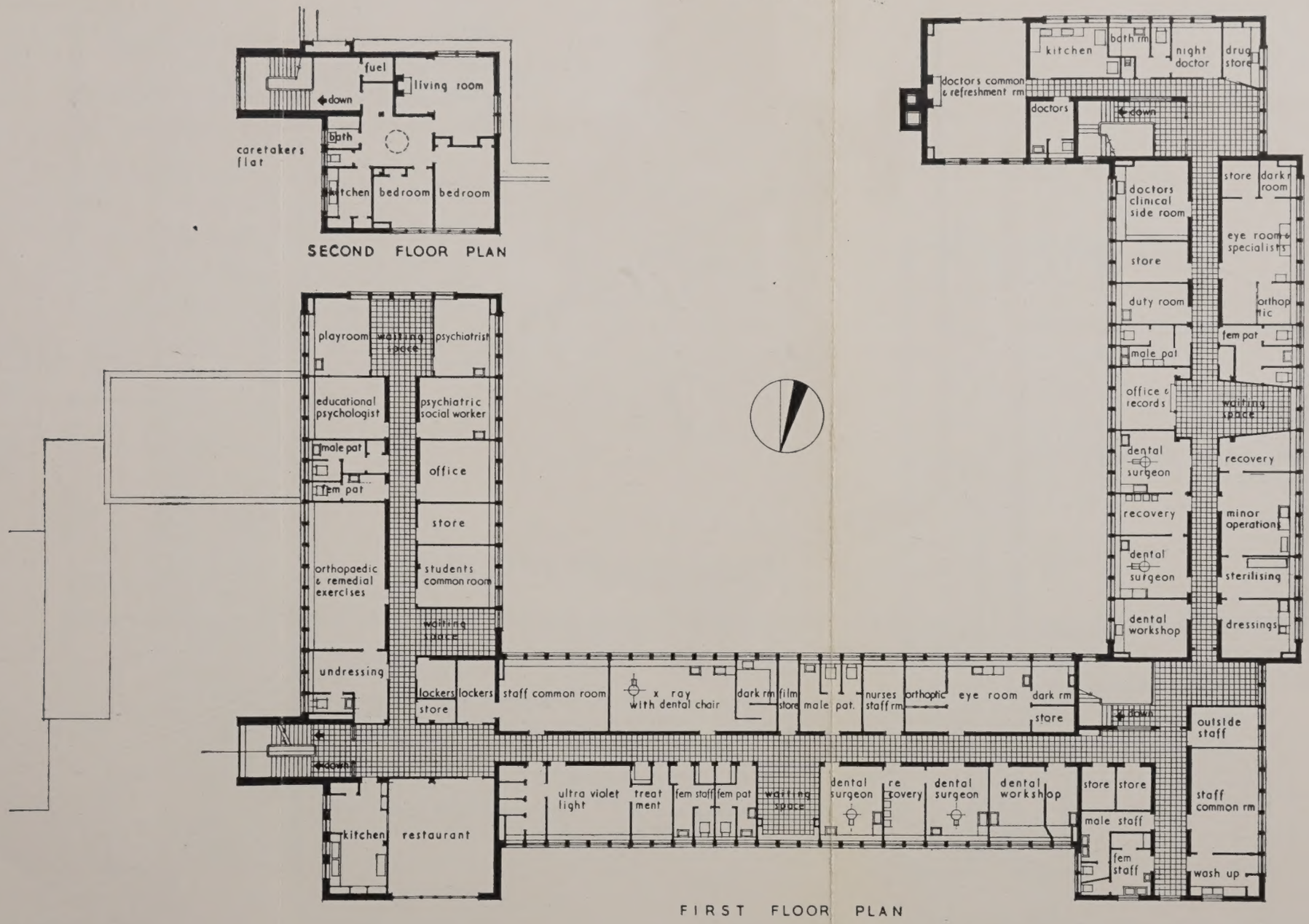

It is possible that the centre will work for many years to its maximum capacity. When the demand is spread amongst other health centres opened in adjoining areas the number in attendance at sessions could be reduced or the spare sessions utilized for other types of health and welfare services which experience may show to be necessary.

DAY NURSERY. A day nursery is included on the same site as the health centre and will share the engineering services. Accommodation for 42 children will be provided. The entrance will be from a quiet side road.

COST. The estimated cost of erection of the centre is £162,978 but this includes a day nursery and a child guidance clinic which will not normally be included in a comprehensive health centre.

PROVISIONAL INDICATION OF STAFF REQUIRED

Grades	G.P. Unit	M. & C.W. Unit	School Health Unit + Child Guidance Unit	Total
Medical Practitioners	6 (G.P's)*	2	2 (including psychiatrist)	10
Dental Practitioners	2*	1	1	4
Dental attendants ...	2	1	1	4
Specialist (part-time)	1 (Eyes)†	—	1 (Eyes)*	2
Nurses	3	—	3	6
Health visitors ...	—	5	—	5
Midwives	—	3	—	3
Clerks	4	2	2	8
Cleaners ...	For whole building			6
Cooks and kitchen staff ...				4
Caretaker ...				1
Dental technicians ...	2	1	1	4
Educational psychologist ...	—	—	1	1
Psychiatric social worker	—	—	1	1
Physiotherapist ...	—	1	—	1
Telephone operators	2	—	—	2
Messenger attendant	—	—	—	1
Do. (night duty) ...	1‡	—	—	1

* To be selected and engaged by the Executive Council.
† To be provided by the Regional Hospital Board.
‡ Required by Executive Council to deal with night calls and enquiries.

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